2nd March 1955]

"(b) The Agricultural Depot at Kanhangad has since been ordered to be reopened."

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, the agricultural Depot at Kanhangad was opened only last year. May I know why it was ordered to be closed? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, this area is under the National Extension Service Scheme. I found that there were Special Extension Service Officers belonging to the Agricultural Department in this area and, in addition, there were also the normal demonstrators. The Government therefore issued an order that the normal officers might be taken out of this area and the whole district might be reorganized with more demonstrators for the areas outside the National Extension Service Scheme. In accordance with this order, the demonstrator at Kanhangad was withdrawn but, in the meanwhile, adequate arrangements had not been made for this area. As I have already stated, the Government have since ordered the reopening of the depot at Kanhangad."

Guinea-worm in South Arcot

* 1033 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the names of the taluks in South Arcot district where guinea worm is largely prevalent?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Guinea-worm is prevalent in all the taluks of South Arcot district except Chidambaram taluk."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, may I know whether preventive and curative measures have been taken and, if so, what they are and with what results? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I have already answered this question just a few days ago and I said that the preventive measures that were taken are conversion of step wells into draw-wells, repeated chlorination of the water, the introduction of cyclopicidal fish and the advice given to the people to drink filtered water and water that is boiled."

Gramasevaks in Tiruchirappalli

* 1034 *Q.*—SRI M. PALANIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Gramasevaks in the Tiruchirappalli district under the Community Projects and National Extension Service Scheme; and

(b) how many of them are Harijans?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Under the National Extension Service Scheme, 40 Gramasevaks are employed in Tiruchirappalli district. The Community Projects Scheme is not in operation in this district.

"(b) One."